

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 01139 221446Z

46

ACTION NEA-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-10 SCCT-02 /018 W

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R 221320Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2572

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1139

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSP, GR, ASEC

SUBJECT: ENHANCED SECURITY TO COMBAT TERRORIST THREATS

1. EMBASSY ATHENS HAS EMPLOYED GREEK NATIONALS
AS SECURITY GUARDS BOTH AS FSLs AND UNDER CONTRACT.

2. ARAB TERRORISTS THREAT IN RECENT PAST INCLUDED
ATTACK ON ATHENS AIRPORT RESULTING IN DEATH OF SEVEN
AMERICANS. FIVE POVS BELONGING TO AMERICANS WERE
BOMBED BY GREEK DISSIDENT GROUPS. TURBULENT STUDENT
SITUATION, STUDENT RIOTS AND RECENT ARAB THREATS AGAINST
EMBASSY AND AMERICANS IN GENERAL REQUIRES HIGH PROFILE
SECURITY MEASURES BE TAKEN AT ALL U.S. INSTALLATIONS
AND SELECTED RESIDENCES OF U.S. EMPLOYEES. TWO ARAB
TERRORISTS SENTENCED TO DEATH DURING JANUARY 1974
BUT JUDGMENT HAS NOW BEEN COMMUTED TO 20 YEARS IMPRISONMENT.
THIS CAUSES CONTINUED PROBLEM BECAUSE ARAB
TERRORISTS MAY WISH EXPLOIT SITUATION FURTHER
TERRORIST THREATS OR ACTIVITY AGAINST PERSONNEL
AND INSTALLATIONS.

3. THE EMBASSY CONCURS IN THE NECESSITY OR ADDITIONAL
ATO GUARDS AND RECOMMENDS DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL AT THE
EARLIEST MOMENT.
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